

Remarks

Upon entry of the forgoing amendments, Claims 1 to 10, 12, 13 and 15 will be presently pending. Claims 10 and 12 have been amended, without prejudice. Claims 11, 14 and 16 have been cancelled. Claims 1 to 9, 13 and 15 are allowed. Applicants note that a certified copy of the priority application PCT/US02/29323 has been ordered and shall be submitted in due course. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Discussion of the Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly lacking enablement with regard to the use of the compounds of Claim 1 for the treatment of all disorders responsive to the inhibition of Cathepsin S. Applicants submit respectfully that the foregoing amendments to Claim 10 have rendered this rejection moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Discussion of the Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 12 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention as step (F) is allegedly confusing with regard to the term “isomer”. Applicants submit respectfully that foregoing amendments to Claim 12 have rendered this rejection moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants submit respectfully that this application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an indication of allowability and an early Notice of Allowance are requested respectfully.

It is hereby requested that the term to respond to the Action of April 18, 2006 be extended pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for one (1) month, from April 18, 2006 to August 18, 2006. Included herein is an authorization to charge the extension fee to a credit card.

The Commissioner is authorized hereby to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment associated with this Reply to Deposit Account Number 19-5425.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 17, 2006

/Peter J. Butch, III/
Peter J. Butch, III
Registration No. 32,203

Synnestvedt & Lechner LLP
2600 Aramark Tower
1101 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Telephone (215) 923-4466
Facsimile (215) 923-2189

CMM

S:\S\ANOFI-AVENTIS\Patents\P27872-B USA\Responses\P27872-B USA - Reply to Action of 03.13.06.doc